



District Eight King County Councilmember Dow Constantine

Spring 2006

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Welcome to the new Eighth Council District!

On January 1, the Eighth Council District expanded. The district boundaries leaped over the Duwamish River and spread eastward across the industrial valley, through Georgetown and up Beacon Hill and West Hill (Skyway); swept northward into Pioneer Square and the International District/Chinatown to the center of Downtown Seattle; and stretched southward to take in the northern parts of Tukwila and SeaTac, and the entire cities of Burien and Normandy Park.

It's a big district.

The new boundaries implement the voter-mandated reduction in the number of King County Councilmembers from 13 to nine. The population of each district rises from the previous 138,000 people (a state legislative district, by comparison, has a population of 125,000 and is represented by three legislators) to almost 200,000 people!

I will now have the privilege of representing an even livelier and more diverse district—one that still includes White Center, South Park, Burien, Vashon/Maury Islands, and my lifelong home of West Seattle. Representing so many people over such a large area will be a real challenge, and I am relying on you to help me stay informed about community issues and events.

Whether you are an old friend or a brand-new constituent, I look forward to the chance to speak with you personally in the near future.

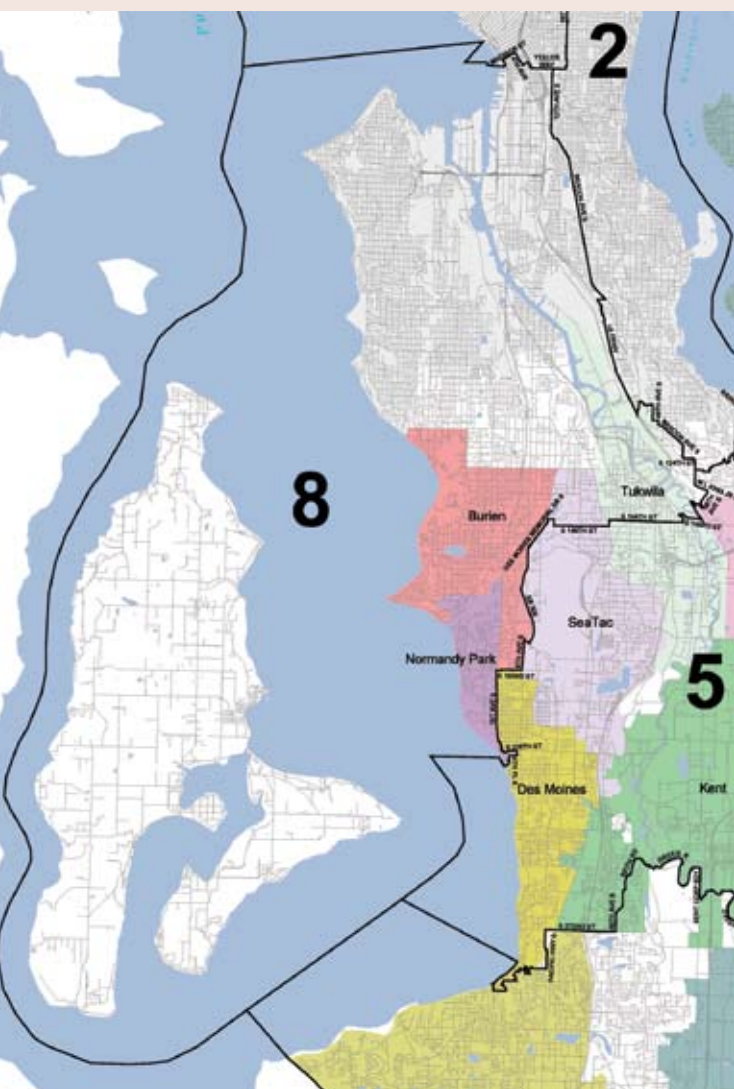
What King County does for you

King County government provides regional services—the kind of services that benefit all citizens of King County. These include the everyday infrastructure that makes our lives work, such as Metro Transit and sewage treatment, plus five major criminal justice functions: District Court, Superior Court, adult detention, juvenile detention, and the King County Sheriff's Office. King County owns and operates the region's major trauma center and public health hospital (Harborview Medical Center), a major airport (King County International, aka

"Boeing Field"), and regional parks and trails. King County is also responsible for public health, veterans' programs, emergency medical services, 911 dispatching and much more.

For the 356,000 unincorporated area residents, a jurisdiction equivalent to the second largest city in the state, King County provides **local** government services, such as roads, police, and enforcement of housing and zoning codes. Unincorporated communities in the Eighth District include Vashon/Maury Islands, North Highline, and West Hill. King County also provides these same local government services to many of King County's 39 cities on a **contract** basis.

Photo © Ray Pfortner at pfortner@centurytel.net



North Highline residents chart their communities' future

More than 32,000 King County residents call the unincorporated communities of North Highline home. From White Center, Boulevard Park, and Beverly Park to Top Hat, Salmon Creek, and North Shorewood, this diverse and energetic collection of neighborhoods is the largest urban area of King County not yet part of a city.

Under state law and county policy the people of North Highline must soon decide how their neighborhoods will be governed in the future.



Joining community leaders at the April 18 White Center sidewalk dedication

In late March, King County and the cities of Seattle and Burien signed an agreement outlining how they will work together to ensure that no North Highline neighborhood will be left behind in the discussion of governance.

Burien, Seattle, and King County will sponsor a series of open houses to allow residents to voice their opinions on the area's future. The times and locations are:

- **Tuesday, May 16**, 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
Southern Heights Elementary School multi-purpose room, 11249 14th Avenue South
- **Wednesday, May 17**, 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
White Center Heights Elementary School cafeteria, 10015 6th Avenue SW
- **Tuesday, May 23**, 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
Hilltop Elementary School cafeteria, 12250 24th Avenue South

For more information on annexation issues, visit www.metrokc.gov/exec/annexinit. For more information on the North Highline Governance Study, sponsored by King County and the North Highline Unincorporated Area Council, visit <http://northhighlineuac.org>.

Youngstown Cultural Arts Center a new focal point for community

Can a single community project combine arts, culture, and historic preservation?

Yes, if the project is the Youngstown Cultural Arts Center. Through a collaborative process headed by the Delridge Neighborhoods Development Association, the 1919-vintage Youngstown/Cooper School building has been given a \$12 million makeover. Its former classrooms now house performance spaces, a recording studio, gallery, arts group office space, and live/work studios for 36 artists.

I joined neighborhood residents, artist tenants, and other community partners in February for the grand opening ceremonies. The arts center already has a full calendar of events, including a weeklong women playwrights festival and evening classes in various disciplines.

DNDA offers public tours of the facility every Friday at noon. For more information, call 206-935-2999.



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